

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed August 27, 2003, claims 1, 17, 19, 31, 33 and 34 were rejected. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Examiner objected to claims 2-16, 18, 20-30, 32 and 35-43 because of a number of informalities. Applicants have amended the claims to conform with the Examiner's requests. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully requests that the objection to these claims be removed and the claims be allowed to pass to issuance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 17, 19, 31 and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,317,639 to Hansen (hereinafter referred to as "Hansen"). In light of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable.

Initially, Applicants note that it is axiomatic that to qualify as an anticipation under Section 102, the cited reference must "bear within its four corners adequate directions for the practice of the patent invalidated." (See, for example, Dewey & Almay Chemical Co. v. Mimex

Co., Inc., 52 U.S.P.Q. 138 (2nd Cir. 1942)). Applicants respectfully submit that Hansen embodies no such directions.

More particularly, Applicants respectfully submit that Hansen does not disclose all the elements to support a finding of anticipation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection to be

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-16, 18, 20-30, 32 and 35-43 would be allowable if the informalities were corrected. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have corrected these claims as well as rewrite claims 2, 18 and 32 in independent form. Therefore, these claims should be in condition for immediate allowance. As the remaining objected to claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 2, 18 and 32, they should be in condition for immediate allowance and such action is hereby respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request objections and rejections. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1703 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

Docket No. 87289.1741
Serial No. 10/022,194
Customer No. 30734

Patent

In the event this paper is not time filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to our Docket No. 87289.1741.

Respectfully submitted,

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